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LOUISIANA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Dudley J. Patin, Jr., Secretary

BATON ROUGE
P.O. BOX 94094

DECEMBER, 1985

RELEASE DATE:
January 27, 1986

LOUISIANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(in thousands)	PRELIMINARY DECEMBER 1985				REVISED NOVEMBER 1985				REVISED DECEMBER 1984			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
LOUISIANA	1,965.2	1,738.3	226.9	11.5	1,985.1	1,763.2	221.9	11.2	1,893.4	1,707.7	185.7	9.8
LABOR MARKET AREAS:												
Alexandria 1/	63.6	57.7	5.9	9.3	64.2	58.5	5.7	8.8	60.7	55.6	5.1	8.3
Baton Rouge 2/	261.8	234.5	27.3	10.4	264.0	237.5	26.5	10.0	249.3	227.8	21.5	8.6
Houma - Thibodaux 3/	83.0	74.1	8.9	10.7	83.9	74.8	9.1	10.9	84.6	76.6	8.0	9.4
Lafayette 4/	108.5	98.6	[illegible]	9.1	110.0	99.9	10.1	9.2	108.1	100.3	7.8	7.3
Lake Charles 5/	73.1	63.6	[illegible]	[illegible].0	73.5	63.9	9.6	13.1	74.1	64.7	9.4	12.6
Monroe 6/	64.9	58.3	6.6	10.2	64.9	58.7	6.2	9.6	61.1	55.8	5.3	8.7
New Orleans 7/	569.9	508.2	[illegible].7	10.8	575.5	512.7	62.8	10.9	561.4	506.6	54.8	9.8
Shreveport 8/	164.5	144.7	[illegible].8	12.0	163.8	146.6	17.2	10.5	158.5	146.8	11.7	7.4

Parishes included in above Labor Market Areas are listed at the end of the Employment and Payroll Trends narrative.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment for the state during December amounted to 1,589,900, a decrease of 4,600 workers from November's level and 21,000 below the comparable period a year ago. A decrease in construction payrolls was largely responsible for the lower level of nonmanufacturing employment for December. Manufacturing employment was also down for the current month as both the durable and nondurable goods segments experienced decreases.

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Employment in the durable goods segment of manufacturing, estimated at 77,600 for December, was 600 lower than the November figure and 8,100 below the year ago level. Production of communication equipment decreased in December, resulting in lower employment for the electrical and electronic equipment industry. A decrease in the transportation equipment industry was due mainly to the ship and boat building and repairing segment. Also down from the November level were lumber and wood products, the stone, clay and glass products industry, and primary metal industries. Machinery, except electrical, edged upward from the previous month.

Total nondurable goods employment for December was 94,000, a decrease of 700 from November's figure and 4,600 lower than December a year ago. The main force in this month's decrease of nondurable goods employment was a seasonal downturn in food and kindred products due to decreased activity in vegetable canning. Apparel and other textile products and chemical and allied products both fell by 100, while printing and publishing, petroleum and coal products and other nondurable goods each increased by 100 for the current month.

Nonmanufacturing employment for Louisiana was estimated at 1,418,300 for December, a decrease of 3,300 from last month and 8,300 lower than the comparable figure a year ago. Increased activity in the production of crude petroleum and natural gas was responsible for the higher employment level in mining this month. A decrease in heavy construction activity was most significant in the drop of construction payrolls. Contributing to the slight upturn in transportation and public utilities employment were increases in trucking and warehousing payrolls and water transportation employment. Following the pattern of previous years trade employment rose as a result of increased hiring at department stores and specialty shops for the holiday season. Finance, insurance and real estate employment held steady for December. Less business at hotels and other lodging places accounted for much of the drop in the services industry. Government payrolls were down mostly as a result of a seasonal decrease in state education.

Average weekly earnings for Louisiana's 121,100 production workers in manufacturing increased from $441.19 in November to $446.90 in December, an increase of $5.71 and an increase of $20.31 above the comparable period a year ago. Average hourly earnings were $0.11 higher in December than last month and $0.31 more than December of last year. Weekly hours averaged 42.4 for the current month, up by 0.1 hours from November's figure.

Total unemployment for Louisiana stood at 226,900 in December, an increase of 5,000 above the November level of 221,900. The unemployment rate for December was 11.5 percent compared to 11.2 percent for last month and 9.8 percent for December a year ago. The comparable national unemployment rate for December was 6.7 percent compared to 6.7 percent in November and 7.0 percent for December of last year. The state's civilian labor force moved from 1,985,100 in November to 1,965,200 in December, a decrease of 19,900. Total employment for Louisiana went from 1,763,200 in November to 1,738,300 in December, a drop of 24,900.

The state's unemployment rate should increase in the upcoming months. Within the nonmanufacturing segment, trade, services, construction and government will probably experience decreases in employment. Manufacturing employment is expected to fall in January.

1/ Rapides Parish only. 2/ Includes Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Livingston, and West Baton Rouge parishes. 3/ Includes LaFourche and Terrebonne parishes. 4/ Includes Lafayette and St. Martin parishes. 5/ Calcasieu Parish only. 6/ Quachita Parish only. 7/ Includes Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Tammany , St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes. 8/ Includes Bossier and Caddo parishes.

LOUISIANA
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change from November 1985	Net Change from December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,589.9	1,594.5	1,610.9	- 4.6	-21.0
MINING	77.9	77.4	82.3	+ 0.5	- 4.4
Oil and Gas Extraction	74.5	74.0	79.3	+ 0.5	- 4.8
Nonmetallic Minerals	3.4	3.4	3.0	0	+ 0.4
CONSTRUCTION	107.9	112.9	114.1	- 5.0	- 6.2
MANUFACTURING	171.6	172.9	184.3	- 1.3	-12.7
Durable Goods	77.6	78.2	85.7	- 0.6	- 8.1
Lumber and Wood Products	13.0	13.1	13.3	- 0.1	- 0.3
Furniture and Fixtures	0.9	0.9	1.0	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	7.4	7.5	8	- 0.1	- 0.7
Primary Metal Industries	3.5	3.6	.6	- 0.1	- 0.1
Fabricated Metal Products	12.3	12.3	12.6	0	- 0.3
Machinery, Except Electrical	9.5	9	10.1	+ 0.1	- 0.6
Electrical & Electronic Equipment	7.5	7.7	11.5	- 0.2	- 4.0
Transportation Equipment	21.0	21.2	22.9	- 0.2	- 1.9
Other Durable Goods (1)	2	2.5	2.6	0	- 0.1
Nondurable Goods	94.0	94.7	98.6	- 0.7	- 4.6
Food & Kindred Products	21.5	22.3	21.8	- 0.8	- 0.3
Apparel & Other Textile Products	9.1	9.2	9.6	- 0.1	- 0.5
Paper & Allied Products	10.8	10.8	11.9	0	- 1.1
Printing & Publishing	10.2	10.1	10.2	+ 0.1	0
Chemicals & Allied Products	26.8	26.9	28.5	- 0.1	- 1.7
Petroleum and Coal Products	11.9	11.8	12.9	+ 0.1	- 1.0
Petroleum Refining	11.1	11.0	12.0	+ 0.1	- 0.9
Other Nondurable Goods (2)	3.7	3.6	3.7	+ 0.1	0
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	113.9	113.8	118.0	+ 0.1	- 4.1
Railroad Transportation	6.9	6.9	7.4	0	- 0.5
Transportation, ex. Railroads	65.9	65.7	68.7	+ 0.2	- 2.8
Communication & Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Ser.	41.1	41.2	41.9	- 0.1	- 0.8
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	390.9	387.6	389.7	+ 3.3	+ 1.2
Wholesale Trade	93.7	94.1	95.7	- 0.4	- 2.0
Retail Trade	297.2	293.5	294.0	+ 3.7	+ 3.2
Gen. Merchandise, Apparel & Acc.	64.6	61.8	64.3	+ 2.8	+ 0.3
Food Stores	57.2	56.7	54.1	+ 0.5	+ 3.1
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	32.7	32.8	32.7	- 0.1	0
Eating & Drinking Places	85.7	86.3	87.5	- 0.6	- 1.8
Other Retail Trade	57.0	55.9	55.4	+ 1.1	+ 1.6
FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE	84.4	84.4	83.3	0	+ 1.1
Banking	27.4	27.4	27.5	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	316.3	317.3	313.2	- 1.0	+ 3.1
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	20.8	21.4	22.1	- 0.6	- 1.3
Other Services	295.5	295.9	291.1	- 0.4	+ 4.4
GOVERNMENT	327.0	328.2	326.0	- 1.2	+ 1.0
Federal	35.4	35.4	34.4	0	+ 1.0
State and Local	291.6	292.8	291.6	- 1.2	0
State	99.1	100.6	101.4	- 1.5	- 2.3
Local	192.5	192.2	190.2	+ 0.3	+ 2.3

* Preliminary **Revised
(1) Includes Professional equipment and misc. manufacturing industries
(2) Includes Leather, Rubber and Textile products.

All estimates of Nonagricultural wage and salaried workers in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and include all full time and part time workers who were employed during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AND SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN LOUISIANA

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**
ALL MANUFACTURING (1)	$446.90	$441.19	$426.59	42.4	42.3	41.7	$10.54	$10.43	$10.23
Durable Goods	409.78	409.08	397.70	41.9	42.0	41.6	9.78	9.74	9.56
Lumber & Wood Products	307.68	313.63	306.53	38.8	39.6	38.9	7.93	7.92	7.88
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	365.19	392.60	365.98	39.1	41.9	40.8	9.34	9.37	8.97
Fabricated Metal Products	434.31	408.32	404.66	46.6	44.0	43.7	9.32	9.28	9.26
Machinery, ex. Electrical	411.04	410.90	392.98	41.9	42.1	40.1	9.81	9.76	9.80
Electric & Electronic Equip.	484.15	493.19	455.82	42.1	43.8	42.6	11.50	11.26	10.70
Transportation Equipment	490.50	482.08	450.69	43.6	42.7	41.5	11.25	11.29	10.86
Nondurable Goods	482.46	470.73	455.20	43.0	42.6	41.8	11.22	11.05	10.89
Food & Kindred Products	319.88	307.33	276.86	43.7	42.1	38.4	7.32	7.30	7.21
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	195.61	189.75	209.20	35.5	35.6	41.1	5.51	5.33	5.09
Paper & Allied Products	576.76	571.60	560.28	43.3	43.6	43.5	13.32	13.11	12.88
Printing & Publishing	400.14	389.64	366.56	40.5	39.8	39.8	9.88	9.79	9.21
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	657.23	647.68	633.01	42.9	44.0	42.8	15.32	14.72	14.79
Petroleum & Coal Products	702.50	695.01	702.50	50.0	47.8	50.0	14.05	14.54	14.05
Petroleum Refining	730.11	724.21	650.58	51.2	48.9	45.4	14.26	14.81	14.33
MINING	584.49	551.80	531.83	50.3	49.4	47.4	11.62	11.17	11.22
COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	526.80	516.12	489.62	40.0	40.8	40.1	13.17	12.65	12.21
BANKING	257.54	248.34	242.61	39.5	37.4	40.1	6.52	6.64	6.05

(1) Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 121,100 full and part-time workers in manufacturing and 103,700 nonsupervisory employees in communications, public utilities, mining and banking. The averages are computed on a "Gross" basis and reflect over-time, late shift work and incentive rates.

LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SITUATION BY LABOR MARKET AREA

	PRELIMINARY 12 85				REVISED 11 85			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE	LABOR FORCE	EMPL.	UNEMP	RATE
CROWLEY (ACADIA)	24,750	21,850	2,900	11.7	25,375	22,400	2,975	11.8
OAKDALE (ALLEN)	6,725	5,425	1,300	19.5	6,800	5,525	1,275	18.9
NAPOLEONVILLE (ASSUMPTION)	11,425	9,950	1,475	12.9	11,650	10,150	1,500	12.8
BUNKIE (AVOYELLES)	13,300	10,550	2,750	20.7	13,775	11,175	2,600	18.9
DERIDDER (BEAUREGARD)	12,975	11,550	1,425	11.0	13,025	11,650	1,375	10.5
ARCADIA (BIENVILLE)	7,875	6,950	925	11.7	7,975	7,100	875	11.0
COLUMBIA (CALDWELL)	5,525	4,975	550	9.8	5,525	5,025	500	9.2
CAMERON (CAMERON)	5,100	4,600	500	9.9	5,150	4,675	475	9.2
JONESVILLE (CATAHOULA)	6,025	5,000	1,025	16.9	6,200	5,250	950	15.4
HOMER (CLAIBORNE)	7,700	6,975	725	9.3	7,750	7,075	675	8.7
FERRIDAY (CONCORDIA)	10,675	8,775	1,900	17.8	10,675	8,975	1,700	16.0
MANSFIELD (DESOTO)	13,850	11,775	2,075	15.0	13,800	12,000	1,800	13.1
LAKE PROVIDENCE (E. CARROLL)	5,325	4,300	1,025	19.2	5,425	4,650	775	14.3
CLINTON (EAST FELICIANA)	8,550	7,475	1,075	12.5	8,675	7,650	1,025	11.9
VILLE PLATTE(EVANGELINE)	14,300	12,150	2,150	15.0	15,050	12,975	2,075	13.9
WINNSBORO (FRANKLIN)	9,025	7,400	1,625	17.9	9,250	7,700	1,550	16.8
COLFAX (GRANT)	4,225	3,375	850	20.2	4,125	3,375	750	18.3
NEW IBERIA (IBERIA)	36,325	32,350	3,975	10.9	36,500	32,550	3,950	10.9
PLAQUEMINE (IBERVILLE)	15,750	13,675	2,075	13.1	16,050	13,975	2,075	12.9
JONESBORO (JACKSON)	6,750	6,075	675	10.1	6,900	6,225	675	9.7
JENNINGS (JEFFERSON DAVIS)	13,075	11,325	1,750	13.4	13,600	11,725	1,875	13.8
JENA (LASALLE)	6,925	6,200	725	10.5	7,000	6,325	675	9.8
RUSTON (LINCOLN)	22,550	21,550	1,000	4.5	23,150	22,075	1,075	4.7
TALLULAH (MADISON)	6,075	4,950	1,125	18.5	6,200	5,300	900	14.6
BASTROP (MOREHOUSE)	13,450	11,150	2,300	17.0	13,550	11,500	2,050	15.2
NATCHITOCHES (NATCHITOCHES)	17,850	15,925	1,925	10.8	18,000	16,175	1,825	10.1
POINT-A-LA-HACHE (PLAQUM.)	14,525	13,350	1,175	8.1	14,825	13,625	1,200	8.0
NEW ROADS (POINTE COUPEE)	13,700	12,000	1,700	12.4	13,975	12,375	1,600	11.4
COUSHATTA (RED RIVER)	4,775	4,225	550	11.3	4,875	4,325	550	11.2
RAYVILLE (RICHLAND)	9,425	8,050	1,375	14.6	9,550	8,275	1,275	13.5
MANY (SABINE)	9,025	7,850	1,175	13.0	9,100	7,975	1,125	12.5
GREENSBURG (ST. HELENA)	4,425	3,975	450	10.1	4,550	4,075	475	10.4
LUTCHER (ST. JAMES)	10,225	8,750	1,475	14.5	10,375	8,875	1,500	14.5
OPELOUSAS (ST. LANDRY)	35,025	29,000	6,025	17.2	35,550	29,600	5,950	16.7
MORGAN CITY (ST. MARY)	34,150	29,675	4,475	13.1	34,775	30,375	4,400	12.6
HAMMOND (TANGIPAHOA)	37,150	31,625	5,525	14.9	37,850	32,225	5,625	14.9
ST. JOSEPH (TENSAS)	3,350	2,875	475	14.0	3,425	3,075	350	10.3
FARMERVILLE (UNION)	8,250	7,175	1,075	13.0	8,225	7,250	975	11.7
ABBEVILLE (VERMILION)	25,450	22,125	3,325	13.1	25,900	22,650	3,250	12.5
LEESVILLE (VERNON)	13,125	11,650	1,475	11.2	13,225	11,825	1,400	10.6
BOGALUSA (WASHINGTON)	15,350	13,025	2,325	15.2	15,700	13,300	2,400	15.2
MINDEN (WEBSTER)	17,025	14,325	2,700	15.8	17,100	14,475	2,625	15.3
OAK GROVE (WEST CARROLL)	5,050	3,950	1,100	21.6	5,175	4,175	1,000	19.2
ST. FRANCISVILLE (W. FELIC.)	3,850	3,400	450	11.5	3,950	3,500	450	11.2
WINNFIELD (WINN)	5,925	5,300	625	10.4	6,000	5,425	575	9.7

NOTE: LABOR MARKET AREAS ARE DESIGNATED BY NAME OF PRINCIPAL TOWN, BUT INCLUDE ALL OF PARISH IN PARENTHESIS.

ABOVE DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST 25 EXCEPT LMAS AND STATEWIDE WHICH ARE ROUNDED TO NEAREST 100. SUBTOTALS MAY NOT ADD TO TOTALS DUE TO ROUNDING. RATES COMPUTED FROM UNROUNDED DATA.

ALEXANDRIA AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	46.0	45.9	45.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
MANUFACTURING	3.5	3.5	3.3	0	+ 0.2
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Other Durable Goods	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.0	0	+ 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	0.8	0.8	0.6	0	+ 0.2
MINING	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	3.0	2.8	- 0.1	+ 0.1
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	11.7	11.5	11.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0	0
Retail Trade	9.4	9.2	9.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.1
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.1	2.0	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Auto Dlrs. & Svc. Sta.	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2.4	2.4	2.4	0	0
Other Retail Trade	3.8	3.7	3.8	+ 0.1	0
FINANCE, INS., & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
SERVICES	10.0	10.0	10.0	0	0
Health Services	4.1	4.1	4.1	0	0
GOVERNMENT	12.8	12.8	12.9	0	- 0.1
Federal	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	0
State and Local	10.3	10.3	10.4	0	- 0.1
State	5.2	5.2	5.3	0	- 0.1
Local	5.1	5.1	5.1	0	0

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in the Alexandria Metropolitan Statistical Area was estimated at 46,000 during December. The estimate was 100 more than November and 300 more than December of last year.

Estimated employment in manufacturing during December totaled 3,500. This estimate was unchanged since the past month and 200 more than December of last year. The increase since last December was in nondurable goods, and was due to a layoff at this time last year.

Employment in nonmanufacturing was estimated at 42,500 during December. This was 100 more than last month and 100 more than last December. Changes since last month reflect seasonal gains in retail trade and a decline in the number of construction workers. Compared to December of last year, employment in construction and retail trade have had a slight increase, and state government having a slight decline.

Seasonal changes are anticipated during the next thirty days with employment in retail sales and outdoor related employment declining.

BATON ROUGE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	219.4	220.8	219.3	- 1.4	+ 0.1
MANUFACTURING	20.6	20.6	21.7	0	- 1.1
Durable Goods	4.2	4.1	4.2	+ 0.1	0
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Fabricated Metal Products	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	- 0.2
Other Durable Goods	1.9	1.8	1.7	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	16.4	16.5	17.5	- 0.1	- 1.1
Food & Kindred Products	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	- 0.2
Printing & Publishing	1.6	1.6	1.6	0	0
Chemicals and Petroleum Products	11.5	11.6	12.5	- 0.1	- 1.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1.2	1.2	1.1	0	+ 0.1
MINING	1.3	1.3	1.2	0	+ 0.1
CONSTRUCTION	25.0	25.7	23.2	- 0.7	+ 1.8
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILTIES	10.7	10.9	10.7	- 0.2	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	53.2	52.9	54.6	+ 0.3	- 1.4
Wholesale Trade	10.7	10.8	11.2	- 0.1	- 0.5
Retail Trade	42.5	42.1	43.4	+ 0.4	- 0.9
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	13.6	13.6	13.5	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	40.2	40.4	39.9	- 0.2	+ 0.3
GOVERNMENT	54.8	55.4	54.5	- 0.6	+ 0.3
Federal	2.1	2.1	2.0	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	52.7	53.3	52.5	- 0.6	+ 0.2
State	32.4	32.8	31.7	- 0.4	+ 0.7
Local	20.3	20.5	20.8	- 0.2	- 0.5

BATON ROUGE AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**
All MANUFACTURING (1)	$502.68	$538.20	$509.35	42.6	45.0	42.2	$11.80	$11.96	$12.07
Petro-Chemicals	661.40	728.14	659.03	44.3	49.0	43.5	14.93	14.86	15.15

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,500 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

BATON ROUGE AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural employment in the Baton Rouge LMA at 219,400 during December was down 1,400 from November's revised estimate and up 100 over the total for last December. Manufacturing had no change and nonmanufacturing was down 1,400.

Estimated employment in manufacturing was 20,600 during December. Durable goods were up 100 due to more business in iron and steel foundries and in blast furnaces, steel works, and rolling and finishing mills. Nondurable goods were down due to less business in industrial organic chemicals.

Employment in nonmanufacturing at 198,800 during December was down 1,400 from November's revised total and up 1,200 over last December. Mining had no change during the current period. Construction was down due to seasonal decreases in painting, paper hanging, and decorating and less business in general building contractors-nonresidential buildings and in heavy construction, except highway and street construction. Transportation was down due to less business in trucking, local and long distance and in sanitary services. Wholesale trade was down to a seasonal drop in motor vehicles and automotive parts and supplies and in beer, wine, and distilled alcoholic beverages. Retail trade was up due to seasonal increases in department stores, grocery stores, and in shoe stores. Finance, insurance and real estate had no change. Services were down due to less business in hotels, motels and tourist courts, in personnel supply services, and in miscellaneous business services. Government was down due to a seasonal drop in public colleges, universities, professional schools, and junior colleges.

Average weekly earnings of Baton Rouge LMA's 12,500 production workers in all manufacturing was $502.68, down $35.52 from November's revised average. Average weekly hours were down 2.4 hours and average hourly earnings were down $0.16. Less overtime worked at premium pay contributed to these changes.

Total employment of Baton Rouge LMA's residents was estimated at 234,500 during December, down 3,000 from November's revised estimate and up 5,200 over the total for last December. Unemployment at 27,300 during December was up 800 during the current period. December's unemployment rate was 10.4 percent, up from November's revised rate of 10.0 percent. The statewide rate was 11.5 percent during December. The Baton Rouge LMA civilian labor force totaled 26,800 during the current period.

Seasonal declines expected to increase unemployment and unemployment rate during the coming month.

The Baton Rouge Job Service Office served 1,882 individuals with new or renewal applications, and placed 395 applicants in jobs during December.

The consumer price index for November, 1985 for all urban consumers was 326.6 and for all urban wage and clerical workers 322.6 using base period 1967=100.

HOUMA - THIBODAUX AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	60.3	60.2	64.3	+ 0.1	- 4.0
MANUFACTURING	6.0	5.9	6.3	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Durable Goods	3.9	3.8	4.1	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Goods	2.1	2.1	2.2	0	- 0.1
MINING	8.3	8.2	8.6	+ 0.1	- 0.3
CONSTRUCTION	2.9	3.0	3.5	- 0.1	- 0.6
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6.7	6.8	7.6	- 0.1	- 0.9
Water Transportation	4.7	4.8	5.1	- 0.1	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.1	14.1	15.4	0	- 1.3
Wholesale Trade	3.1	3.1	3.6	0	- 0.5
Retail Trade	11.0	11.0	11.8	0	- 0.8
Eating & Drinking Places	3.3	3.5	3.8	- 0.2	- 0.5
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.5	2.4	2.5	+ 0.1	0
SERVICES	8.6	8.7	9.3	- 0.1	- 0.7
GOVERNMENT	11.2	11.1	11.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Federal	0.5	0.5	0.4	0	+ 0.1
State and Local	10.7	10.6	10.7	+ 0.1	0
State	3.1	3.0	3.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Local	7.6	7.6	7.7	0	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the Houma-Thibodaux LMA in December edged up to 60,300, a level only 100 above November. Changes were minor in all industry divisions. Since December of 1984, total nonagricultural wage and salary employment lost 4,000 workers.

Manufacturing employment totaled 6,000 in December, 100 above last month's total. The increase was in fabricated metal products and ship and boatbuilding and repairing. The other industries held steady over the month. Compared to this same time last year, manufacturing employment is down 300.

Retail trade held steady as seasonal gains in some industries were offset by decreases in others. Construction made downward adjustments necessitated by winter weather conditions. Water transportation tapered off. Services showed a small decrease spread through several segments. More favorably, mining exhibited a small gain. Finance, insurance and real estate moved up slightly. State government added workers in state educational services.

Estimated unemployment in December decreased to 8,900, down 200 from November. A minor gain in employment was mostly responsible. Unemployment presently comprises 10.7 percent of the labor force compared to 10.9 percent in November and 9.4 percent in December of last year. The December rate was lower than the state rate of 11.5 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 6.7 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits numbered 2,140.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to show normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will reduce employment as the holiday season passes. Mining and construction will be hurt by winter weather conditions. Unemployment will probably increase as employment decreases.

LAFAYETTE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	95.0	94.7	98.8	+ 0.3	- 3.8
MANUFACTURING	6.0	5.9	6.0	+ 0.1	0
Durable Goods	2.4	2.3	2.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Nondurable Goods	3.6	3.6	3.7	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	+ 0.1
MINING	15.4	15.1	17.4	+ 0.3	- 2.0
CONSTRUCTION	4.8	5.0	5.3	- 0.2	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	7.1	7.1	7.1	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	25.0	24.9	26.3	+ 0.1	- 1.3
Wholesale Trade	6.2	6.2	6.8	0	- 0.6
Retail Trade	18.8	18.7	19.5	+ 0.1	- 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	3.1	3.0	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Food Stores	3.3	3.3	3.2	0	+ 0.1
Auto. Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	- 0.1
Other Retail Trade	10.6	10.6	11.6	0	- 1.0
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.0	4.0	4.2	0	- 0.2
SERVICES	19.1	19.1	19.3	0	- 0.2
GOVERNMENT	13.6	13.6	13.2	0	+ 0.4
Federal	0.8	0.9	0.8	- 0.1	0
State and Local	12.8	12.7	12.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
State	5.4	5.3	5.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
Local	7.4	7.4	7.2	0	+ 0.2

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in Lafayette was estimated at 95,000 for December, an increase of 300 over November's level but 3,800 below the December level a year ago.

Nonmanufacturing increased 200 from the previous month yet decreased 3,000 from December of 1984.

Manufacturing showed little or no change from comparative periods.

Mining showed a marked increase of 300 from the previous month and decreased 2,000 from the same period of time a year ago.

Trade showed a 100 increase from November and a 1,300 decrease from December of 1984.

The other segments of the economy showed very little change.

Unemployment should rise next month as a result of seasonal weather conditions which hamper employment and layoffs from seasonal holiday hiring.

Local economists predict more of the same kind of economy in 1986 that we experienced in 1985. This is not encouraging for job seekers.

LAKE CHARLES AREA

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	57.2	57.3	60.2	- 0.1	- 3.0
MANUFACTURING	9.6	9.4	9.9	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Durable Goods	0.8	0.7	0.8	+ 0.1	0
Lumber & Wood Products	0.1	0.1	0.1	0	0
Stone, Clay & Glass Prod.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	0.5	0.4	0.5	+ 0.1	0
Nondurable Goods	8.8	8.7	9.1	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Food & Kindred Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Chemical & Pet. Products	7.9	7.8	8.2	+ 0.1	- 0.3
Other Nondurable Goods	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
MINING	1.7	2.0	1.9	- 0.3	- 0.2
CONSTRUCTION	3.1	3.4	4.0	- 0.3	- 0.9
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	4.5	4.4	4.5	+ 0.1	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	14.2	14.0	15.1	+ 0.2	- 0.9
Wholesale Trade	3.2	3.2	3.4	0	- 0.2
Retail Trade	11.0	10.8	11.7	+ 0.2	- 0.7
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	2.4	2.3	2.6	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Auto Dlrs. & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.2	3.1	3.4	+ 0.1	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	2.7	2.7	2.8	0	- 0.1
SERVICES	10.5	10.5	10.9	0	- 0.4
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
Personal Services	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
GOVERNMENT	10.9	10.9	11.1	0	- 0.2
Federal	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
State and Local	10.2	10.2	10.4	0	- 0.2
State	3.8	3.8	3.9	0	- 0.1
Local	6.4	6.4	6.5	0	- 0.1

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural employment in lake charles fell 100 from the previous month. The current estimate is 3,000 below the December level of 1984.

Employment in nonmanufacturing fell below 300 from the previous month and 2,700 less than the same period a year ago.

Manufacturing showed a 200 decrease from the previous month and 300 less than the same period a year ago.

Trade increased 200 from November but reflected a 900 decrease from December of 1984.

There was little change in other segments of the economy.

MONROE AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	55.0	55.0	54.3	0	+ 0.7
MANUFACTURING	7.3	7.3	7.2	0	+ 0.1
Durable Goods	2.3	2.3	2.1	0	+ 0.2
Lumber & Wood Products	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
Other Durable Goods	2.1	2.1	1.9	0	+ 0.2
Nondurable Goods	5.0	5.0	5.1	0	- 0.1
Food & Kindred Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Chemical & Allied Products	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	- 0.1
MINING	0.7	0.7	0.7	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	3.5	3.5	3.1	0	+ 0.4
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	2.7	2.7	2.7	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	17.0	16.8	16.7	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Wholesale Trade	4.3	4.3	4.4	0	- 0.1
Retail Trade	12.7	12.5	12.3	+ 0.2	+ 0.4
Gen. Mdse., App. & Acc.	4.1	3.9	3.6	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Auto Dealers & Serv. Sta.	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3.5	3.5	3.9	0	- 0.4
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	4.2	4.2	4.1	0	+ 0.1
SERVICES	10.3	10.5	10.4	- 0.2	- 0.1
Hotels & Other Lodg. Places	0.4	0.4	0.4	0	0
Personal Services	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	0
Health Services	4.5	4.5	4.4	0	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	9.3	9.3	9.4	0	- 0.1
Federal	0.6	0.6	0.6	0	0
State and Local	8.7	8.7	8.8	0	- 0.1
State	4.7	4.7	4.5	0	+ 0.2
Local	4.0	4.0	4.3	0	- 0.3

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment, estimated at 55,000, was unchanged from the November estimate.

Manufacturing, estimated at 7,300, was unchanged from the November estimate; however, there was an over the year gain of 200 in durable goods.

Nonmanufacturing, estimated at 47,700, was also unchanged over the month, but experienced a 600 gain over the year. Wholesale and retail trade, already up with the opening of a new mall, gained 200 workers. The only loss was 200 in services. All other segments were unchanged over the month.

Employment is expected to decline with the end of the holiday season; while unemployment is expected to rise as is normal in the area for the beginning of a new year.

NEW ORLEANS AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	529.5	529.5	543.2	0	-13.7
MANUFACTURING	46.0	46.5	48.0	- 0.5	- 2.0
Durable Goods	22.3	22.7	23.9	- 0.4	- 1.6
Lumber and Wood Products	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	- 0.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	1.9	1.9	2.7	0	- 0.8
Fabricated Metal Products	3.0	3.1	3.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Machinery, Except Electrical	3.0	2.9	2.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Transportation Equipment	12.1	12.5	12.8	- 0.4	- 0.7
Ship and Boatbuilding & Repairing	7.5	7.8	8.2	- 0.3	- 0.7
Other Durable Goods	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0
Nondurable Goods	23.7	23.8	24.1	- 0.1	- 0.4
Food & Kindred Products	7.4	7.5	7.2	- 0.1	+ 0.2
Apparel & Other Textile Products	1.8	1.8	2.0	0	- 0.2
Paper & Allied Products	1.1	1.1	1.2	0	- 0.1
Printing & Publishing	3.8	3.8	3.7	0	+ 0.1
Chemicals and Allied Products	4.5	4.5	4.7	0	- 0.2
Petroleum & Coal Products	4.8	4.8	5.0	0	- 0.2
Other Nondurable Goods	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0
MINING	19.8	19.6	20.6	+ 0.2	- 0.8
CONSTRUCTION	30.8	31.5	33.0	- 0.7	- 2.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	44.2	44.5	46.5	- 0.3	- 2.3
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	- 0.1
Water Transportation	14.5	14.3	14.9	+ 0.2	- 0.4
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	145.5	144.2	146.2	+ 1.3	- 0.7
Wholesale Trade	34.1	34.3	36.4	- 0.2	- 2.3
Retail Trade	111.4	109.9	109.8	+ 1.5	+ 1.6
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	31.6	31.7	31.9	- 0.1	- 0.3
SERVICES	126.9	127.2	130.0	- 0.3	- 3.1
GOVERNMENT	84.7	84.3	87.0	+ 0.4	- 2.3
Federal	15.3	15.3	14.8	0	+ 0.5
State and Local	69.4	69.0	72.2	+ 0.4	- 2.8
State	21.3	21.4	21.8	- 0.1	- 0.5
Local	48.1	47.6	50.4	+ 0.5	- 2.3

NEW ORLEANS AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**
All MANUFACTURING	$447.72	$440.35	$419.02	42.0	41.7	40.8	$10.66	$10.56	$10.27
Durable Goods	405.57	405.00	387.68	41.3	41.2	39.6	9.82	9.83	9.79
Stone, Clay, & Glass Pdts.	400.20	455.85	347.55	41.3	45.0	35.5	9.69	10.13	9.79
Fabricated Metal Products	428.64	394.53	392.71	48.0	45.4	45.4	8.93	8.69	8.65
Ship & Boatbuilding and Repairing	395.69	379.00	413.60	39.1	37.9	40.0	10.12	10.00	10.34
Nondurable Goods	486.92	474.75	449.59	42.6	42.2	41.9	11.43	11.25	10.73
Food & Kindred Products	334.96	340.81	346.52	40.7	39.4	40.2	8.23	8.65	8.62
Apparel & Other Textile Pdts.	151.78	168.28	189.36	27.9	32.3	36.0	5.44	5.21	5.26
Paper & Allied Products	472.76	417.19	391.53	49.4	47.3	44.9	9.57	8.82	8.72
Printing & Publishing	428.09	413.85	388.52	45.3	44.5	44.0	9.45	9.30	8.83
Chemicals & Allied Pdts.	725.84	659.46	655.08	43.0	42.3	42.1	16.88	15.59	15.56

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 30,600 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

NEW ORLEANS AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the New Orleans LMA in December stood at 529,500, the same level as in November. Normal seasonal gains in nonmanufacturing were offset by decreases in manufacturing. Since December of 1984, total nonagricultural wage and salary employment lost 13,700 workers, with the decreases spread through all major industry divisions.

Manufacturing employment totaled 46,000 in December, down 500 from last month. Transportation equipment dropped 400, with 300 of the layoffs in ship and boatbuilding and repairing. The other manufacturing industries held steady over the month or exhibited minor changes. Compared to one year ago, manufacturing employment is down 2,000.

Retail trade pushed up seasonally as shopping for the holiday season moved into full swing. Wholesale trade eased down slightly. Mining showed a minor gain. Local government added workers in educational services. Less favorably, construction made downward adjustments necessitated by winter weather conditions. Services were lowered by downturns in employment by private health services, business services, and the hotel-motel industry, with these losses partly offset by the opening of the Fair Grounds racing season. Transportation exhibited decreases in most industries except water transportation. Insurance carriers sustained an overall downtrend.

Area production workers earned an average $447.72 a week in December, up $7.37 from November's average and up $36.07 from this same time last year. Average hourly earnings increased ten cents and average weekly hours rose 18 minutes.

Estimated unemployment in December decreased to 61,700, a level 1,100 below November. Seasonal employment gains in retail trade were mostly responsible. Joblessness presently comprises 10.8 percent of the labor force compared to 10.9 percent in November and 9.8 percent in December of last year. The December rate was lower than the state rate of 11.5 percent, but much higher than the comparable national rate of 6.7 percent. Recipients of regular unemployment insurance benefits totaled 14,683. About 45.0 percent of the claimants were nonwhite; approximately 33.0 percent were female.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the coming months is expected to display normal seasonal changes. Retail trade will make normal downward adjustments following the close of the holiday season. Construction and mining will be hindered by winter weather conditions. More favorably, many segments of the economy will benefit from the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras activities. Unemployment will probably show some increase in the remaining winter months.

SHREVEPORT AREA
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
(In Thousands by Industry)

	December 1985*	November 1985**	December 1984**	Net Change From November 1985	Net Change From December 1984
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	139.3	139.6	145.2	- 0.3	- 5.9
MANUFACTURING	18.1	18.4	22.9	- 0.3	- 4.8
Durable Goods	13.8	14.2	18.4	- 0.4	- 4.6
Lumber and Wood Products	0.6	0.7	0.6	- 0.1	0
Metals and Machinery	8.2	8.4	12.6	- 0.2	- 4.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	1.9	1.9	2.4	0	- 0.5
Machinery, Inc. Electrical	6.3	6.5	10.2	- 0.2	- 3.9
Other Durable Goods	5.0	5.1	5.2	- 0.1	- 0.2
Nondurable Good	4.3	4.2	4.5	+ 0.1	- 0.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0	0
Printing & Publishing	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.8	0.8	0.9	0	- 0.1
Other Nondurable Goods	1.1	1.0	1.2	+ 0.1	- 0.1
MINING	4.6	4.5	5.5	+ 0.1	- 0.9
CONSTRUCTION	8.9	9.1	9.1	- 0.2	- 0.2
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	8.0	7.9	8.6	+ 0.1	- 0.6
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	35.6	35.1	35.8	+ 0.5	- 0.2
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.2	9.1	- 0.1	0
Retail Trade	26.5	25.9	26.7	+ 0.6	- 0.2
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	8.0	8.0	7.8	0	+ 0.2
SERVICES	30.1	30.7	30.0	- 0.6	+ 0.1
GOVERNMENT	26.0	25.9	25.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Federal	4.6	4.5	4.3	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
State and Local	21.4	21.4	21.2	0	+ 0.2
State	6.7	6.7	6.6	0	+ 0.1
Local	14.7	14.7	14.6	0	+ 0.1

SHREVEPORT AREA
AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**	December '85*	Nov. '85**	December '84**
1 MANUFACTURING	$458.02	$457.32	$436.96	41.3	41.2	42.3	$11.09	$11.10	$10.33
Lumber and Wood Products	227.50	278.76	194.05	38.3	42.3	37.9	5.94	6.59	5.12
Metals and Machinery	429.72	433.68	440.79	41.2	41.5	43.3	10.43	10.45	10,18
Food and Kindred Products	313.81	309.55	284.01	41.4	41.0	40.4	7.58	7.55	7.03
Printing and Publishing	274.86	269.35	221.31	32.8	31.8	28.3	8.38	8.47	7.82
Petroleum and Coal Products	485.94	464.30	442.37	42.0	40.8	43.2	11.57	11.38	10.24

Data in the average earnings table are for approximately 12,700 production workers and are computed on a "gross" basis and reflect overtime, late shift work and incentive rates.

SHREVEPORT AREA

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL TRENDS

The nonagricultural wage and salary employment total for the Shreveport area is estimated at 139,300, down from 139,600 in November and is 5,900 less than December, 1984. Job losses in manufacturing accounts for 4,800 of this total, while nonmanufacturing employment losses totaled 1,100 since December, 1984.

Manufacturing employment, at 18,100, is 300 less than the revised November estimate and is well below the year ago estimate of 22,900. This area continues to experience job losses due to weaker demands for lumber and wood products, metals and machinery and other durable goods. During the past month, total employment in manufacturing of durable goods declined from 14,200 to 13,800.

Nonmanufacturing employment, at 121,200, remains unchanged from the revised November estimate, but shows a substantial decline of 1,100 from December, 1984. There were slight gains in mining, transportation and public utilities and government, plus a 600 seasonal gain in retail trade during the past month. These gains were offset by losses in construction and services employment.

The Shreveport labor area has 12,700 production workers with average weekly earnings of $458.02, up from $457.32 last month and $436.96 one year ago. These production workers had average hours of 41.3, nearly unchanged from 41.2 last month and falls below the year ago average of 42.3. The average hourly earnings fell slightly to $11.09, down from $11.10 last month and shows an increase from $10.33 in December, 1984.

This labor area has a civilian labor force estimated at 164,500, with 144,700 employed and 19,800 unemployed. The unemployment rate climbed to 12.0 percent, up from the revised November rate of 10.5 percent.

High unemployment is expected to continue through the first quarter of 1986 and will likely exceed 20,000 before leveling off. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment will remain below 140,000 during the first quarter.

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